
Adventure grant supports exploration of sustainable food production in the Western Isles.

22 February 2024

Richard and Jenny Adams will capture the stories of sustainability through the lens of food production and resilience of wild places.

Richard and Jenny hope to launch their project, 'Making Wild Places Bloom', exploring the Scottish Western Isles and our relationship with food production and sustainability. Their adventure aims to capture and tell the stories of food pioneers catalysing positive socio-ecological change. They will record cases of innovative individuals and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) who are reviving and protecting Scottish wild places through food production.

Throughout their journey they will ensure a low carbon footprint by cycling and using public transport where possible and accommodation choices will prioritise local social initiatives. They will meet with ecosystem engineers, capturing stories through interviews, drawings, photography, documentary analysis and recordings.

On receiving the news of the grant offer Richard and Jenny said: "We are thrilled to have been awarded a Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant by the John Muir Trust. In the spirit of the award we are setting out on an adventure through Scotland's western isles for our 'Make Wild Places Bloom' project researching stories of wild place sustainability through innovative approaches to food production."

Sophie Mackaness of the John Muir Trust, who administers the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant said: "The grant panel were excited to support a project that focuses on a key issue in the climate crisis. Food sustainability is an important factor in a changing world and an investigation into successful ventures is essential."

The Making Wild Places Bloom project is one of six successful applicants to the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant in 2024. This grant was established to give people the opportunity to seek out life-changing experiences in wild places in ways which will benefit both the person, and the wild places themselves.

Editor's Notes

About

The John Muir Trust is a leading voice for the UK's wild places. Its stewardship of some of Britain's most iconic wild places, including Ben Nevis and Helvellyn, is guided by three freedoms; ensuring nature has the freedom to repair itself, people have the freedom to enjoy the benefits, and communities have the freedom to thrive. For 40 years, the Trust has advocated for the protection of wild places by evidencing their benefit to society. Driven by the belief that wild places are for everyone – it also provides opportunities for people from all walks of life to engage with nature through its UK-wide environmental award scheme, the John Muir Award.

About the Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant

The grant commemorates two former Presidents of the Scottish Mountaineering Club, who each led inspiring and adventurous lives. It was set up to give others an opportunity to follow in their adventurous footsteps and experience wild places. Projects should have an educational or scientific component and benefit wild places.

Bill Wallace, died of heart failure in February 2007 while skiing in the Alps at the age of 73 with two artificial hips.

Des Rubens, was a popular teacher at Craigroyston High School in Edinburgh was killed in June 2016 in an Alpine climbing accident at the age of 63.

Grants are for £200 to £2,000 and open to UK applicants of all ages. Closing date for applications is 15 January each year. Further details on how to apply: <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/whats-new/grants/des-rubens-and-bill-wallace-grant>

Contact

Sophie Mackaness

Des Rubens and Bill Wallace Grant Administrator

e: sophie.mackaness@johnmuirtrust.org

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